



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Care Quality and Cost Council  
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**JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.**  
Chair

**KATHARINE LONDON**  
Executive Director

**Patient Safety  
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 17, 2007  
2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.  
One Ashburton 21<sup>st</sup> floor, room 1  
Boston, MA

**Committee Members Present:** JudyAnn Bigby, Charlie Baker, Beth Capstick, Katharine London, Tom Lee, and Jim Conway by telephone.

*Meeting called to order at 2:34pm*

**I. Overview of Committee's Responsibilities**

The Committee reviewed the charges to the Patient Safety Committee. The Patient Safety Committee is charged with setting concrete principles to ensure patient safety and effectiveness of care. The Patient Safety Committee is responsible for developing recommendations to reduce and eventually eliminate hospital associated infections and to eliminate Never Events as defined by the National Quality Forum.

The Committee will identify specific steps required to meet these goals, estimate the cost of implementing these steps, and estimate the potential savings and potential improvement in the health of the population.

**II. Review of work previously done by the Council on Patient Safety**

- The Committee invited Public Health Commissioner, John Auerbach, to give an update presentation on the Betsy Lehman Report. 75% of the report has been completed to date. Based on the findings from the report DPH developed a list of recommendations to reduce hospital acquired infections. DPH is expecting that the report will be completed by December. DPH is anticipating a regulation that would mandate that hospitals report certain hospital acquired infections. Hospitals will also be required to report preventive efforts. This regulation will be made public in November and finalized in February 2008 after receiving public comment. DPH will provide technical assistance to hospitals and consumer education to help them have a meaningful conversation with their health care provider to reduce infections. Finally, DPH is hiring two full-time inspectors to monitor ongoing compliance with protocols to reduce infections.
- The Committee discussed national standards for Never Events and expressed interest in developing consensus in work done in this area. DPH offered their assistance in looking at other state reporting methods. The findings will be presented to the Council

during its next scheduled meeting. Tom Lee also announced that Partners Healthcare is planning to post the results of its root cause analyses of very serious events on its website.

- The Committee discussed the importance of each organizations leadership providing support to Patient Safety improvement efforts.
- The Committee discussed the importance of looking at Patient Safety in its relationship to health facilities, not solely the hospital. Patient Safety is an issue affecting health facilities across the board and in moving forward the committee will look at Patient Safety specific to facilities and in general.

### **III. Committee Goals**

- The Committee discussed the enormous work being done in the area of Patient Safety. In setting concrete steps towards meeting the Commonwealth's goals around Patient Safety the Committee hopes to identify and work with leading organizations. In moving forward, the Committee plans to identify best practices in this area and to include them in the conversation about setting benchmarks.
- The Committee noted that it should consider following CMS's lead. CMS has begun implementing an initiative under which Medicare would not pay for certain conditions acquired in the hospital.

### **IV. Committee Membership**

The Committee is looking for interested parties to join in its efforts to reduce and eliminate Hospital Acquired Infections and Never Events. There is a lot of work being done in this area at all levels.

### **Next Steps**

- At the Next Committee meeting, DPH will report on what is already being reported by different states with respects to Never Events or serious reported events. The Committee requests that there be a review of the Minnesota Never Event List.

***Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm***